



AFC Championship Game: New England Patriots at Indianapolis Colts

Time: 6:30 p.m. TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM



Their quarterback has the gawdy stats, they've got the best clutch kicker in the league, and their defense is finally waking up. As they face their nemesis, New England, at home for the conference title, it may be now or never for the Indianapolis Colts.

CAN THEY DO IT?

THE QB



With a trip to the Super Bowl, Peyton Manning could solidify his place as the greatest quarterback of his generation — or any generation.

438 Playoff passing yards this season
1 Playoff TDs
5 INTs in playoffs

THE ROOKIE



Joseph Addai has split much of his playing time with veteran Dominic Rhodes, but he has quickly become a fan favorite.

161 Playoff rushing yards
1 Playoff TDs
1,081 Yardage in regular season

THE KICKER



His right foot won two Super Bowls for the Patriots, but now he suits up for Indy. Adam Vinatieri was the only Colts player who scored against the Ravens.

8-8 Postseason kick attempts so far
2-2 Playoff attempts from 50-plus yards

THE RECEIVERS



The Colts' Pro Bowl receivers, Reggie Wayne and Marvin Harrison, have been largely ineffective through two postseason games.

93 Harrison's playoff yards
87 Wayne's playoff yards
144 Tight end Dallas Clark's playoff yards

THE DEFENSE



Injury-depleted and much-maligned, the Colts' defense has undergone a sudden turnaround, stuffing two of the NFL's top rushers the past two weeks.

6 Playoff sacks
4 Playoff INTs
127 Rushing yards allowed in two playoff games

THE COACH



Though he led Tampa Bay's turnaround in the '90s, Tony Dungy missed a Super Bowl trip. He could become the first black to coach in the NFL's biggest game.

.648 Career regular-season winning percentage
.466 Career playoff winning percentage



What is it about the Patriots?

Though the Colts have won the past two regular-season meetings between the two teams, New England has long been a playoff nightmare for Indianapolis.

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New England not talking trash

New England coaches and players heap praise on Indianapolis, from the rushing game to the defense. But they know how to stop the Colts: slow down Peyton Manning.

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Big names vs. no names

While Indy's corps of wide receivers includes a couple of Pro Bowlers, the Patriots have a history of taking no-name receivers and making due.

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Mr. Clutch puts his foot into it

Once a Patriot hero, Adam Vinatieri is calm, cool and collected as he lines up for the Colts.

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